

# The House of Representatives

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

STATE HOUSE

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HARRY F. CATO  
SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

January 5, 2010

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

As Speaker Pro Tempore of the South Carolina House, I represent constituents who are using the Internet more and more in their daily work and personal lives. I believe we need to continue to encourage private investment for both wireline and wireless broadband to meet the growing demands and to create jobs and to expand the economy of South Carolina.

That is why I am concerned about the proposed net neutrality regulations you and the Commission are considering adopting. I believe the proposals in your Open Internet Notice of Proposed Rulemaking could place burdensome regulations on Internet service providers, making it more difficult for them to continue investing in broadband – at a time when we need to encourage more investment.

The Internet has flourished with a relatively “light touch” of government oversight over the years. Such a regulatory approach has emphasized market competition and innovation. I do not see a market or competitive problem that warrants heavy-handed government regulation. The FCC currently has regulations and principles in place that allow it to take corrective action if and when necessary. Adding onerous rules on Internet service providers will only discourage them from making the billions of dollars of investment needed to keep up with the burgeoning demands for Internet capacity.

As the former chairman of the S.C. House committee that oversees broadband and other utility policy, I am also concerned about how the FCC’s Open Internet NPRM seems to focus only on regulating Internet service providers and their technical operations and not other Internet-related companies, such as content and applications providers. Instead, I believe our national Internet policy should focus on consumers and meeting their demands through market competition and technological innovation.

Broadband Internet access for all citizens is a worthy and important objective, but I believe imposing new net neutrality regulations as proposed in the NPRM will move us farther away from that goal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Harry F. Cato*

Copy:

Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Commissioner Michael J. Copps

Commissioner Robert M. McDowell